

**Remarks at a Memorial Day
Ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans
Memorial**

May 31, 1993

Thank you very much. General Powell, General McCaffrey, and my good friend Lou Puller, whom I did not know was coming here today, I thank you so much.

To all of you who are shouting, I have heard you. I ask you now to hear me. I have heard you. Some have suggested that it is wrong for me to be here with you today because I did not agree a quarter of a century ago with the decision made to send the young men and women to battle in Vietnam. Well, so much the better. Here we are celebrating America today. Just as war is freedom's cost, disagreement is freedom's privilege, and we honor it here today. But I ask all of you to remember the words that have been said here today. And I ask you at this monument: Can any American be out of place? And can any Commander in Chief be in any other place but here on this day? I think not.

Many volumes have been written about this war and those complicated times. But the message of this memorial is quite simple: These men and women fought for freedom, brought honor to their communities, loved their country, and died for it. They were known to all of us. There's not a person in this crowd today who did not know someone on this wall. Four of my high school classmates are there. Four who shared with me the joys and trials of childhood and did not live to see the three score and ten years the Scripture says we are entitled to.

Let us continue to disagree, if we must, about the war. But let us not let it divide us as a people any longer. No one has come here today to disagree about the heroism of those whom we honor. But the only way we can really honor their memory is to resolve to live and serve today and tomorrow as best we can and to make America the best that she can be. Surely that is what we owe to all those whose names are etched in this beautiful memorial. As we all resolve to keep the finest military in the world, let us remember some of the lessons that all agree on. If the day should come when our service men and women must again go into combat, let

us all resolve they will go with the training, the equipment, the support necessary to win, and most important of all, with a clear mission to win.

Let us do what is necessary to regain control over our destiny as a people here at home, to strengthen our economy and develop the capacities of all of our people, to rebuild our communities and our families where children are raised and character is developed. Let us keep the American dream alive.

Today, let us also renew a pledge to the families whose names are not on this wall because their sons and daughters did not come home. We will do all we can to give you not only the attention you have asked for but the answers you deserve.

Today I have ordered that by Veterans Day we will have declassified all United States Government records related to POW's and MIA's from the Vietnam war, all those records, except for a tiny fraction which could still affect our national security or invade the privacy of their families. As we allow the American public to have access to what our Government knows, we will press harder to find out what other governments know. We are pressing the Vietnamese to provide this accounting not only because it is the central outstanding issue in our relationship with Vietnam but because it is a central commitment made by the American Government to our people, and I intend to keep it.

You heard General Powell quoting President Lincoln: "With malice toward none and charity for all let us bind up the Nation's wounds." Lincoln speaks to us today across the years. Let us resolve to take from this haunting and beautiful memorial a renewed sense of our national unity and purpose, a deepened gratitude for the sacrifice of those whose names we touched and whose memories we revere, and a finer dedication to making America a better place for their children and for our children, too.

Thank you all for coming here today. God bless you, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:07 p.m. at the memorial. In his remarks, he referred to Lewis B. Puller, Jr., Vietnam veteran and Pulitzer prize-winning author.

Memorandum on Trade Agreements *May 31, 1993*

Memorandum for the United States Trade Representative

Subject: Presidential Determination Under Section 1105(b)(1) of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988

Section 1105(b)(1) of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-48; 19 U.S.C. 2904(b)(1)) ("the Act"), provides that the President shall determine, before June 1, 1993, whether any major industrial country has failed to make concessions under trade agreements entered into under section 1102(a) and (b) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2902(a) and (b)) which provide opportunities for the commerce of the United States in such country substantially equivalent to the competitive opportunities, provided by concessions made by the United States under trade agreements entered into under section 1102(a) and (b) of the Act, for the commerce of such country in the United States.

Since the United States has not entered into any agreements under section 1102(a) or (b) of the Act, I hereby determine that there has been no failure to make concessions thereunder.

William J. Clinton

Memorandum on the Withdrawal of Russian Armed Forces from Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia *May 31, 1993*

Presidential Determination No. 93-24

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Withdrawal of Russian Armed Forces from Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia

Pursuant to the Foreign Operation, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1993 (Public Law 102-391) (the "Act"), including subsection (e) under the heading "Assistance for the New Independent States of the Former Soviet Union" in Title II of the Act, I hereby certify that substantial withdrawal has occurred of the

armed forces of Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States from Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

You are authorized and directed to notify the Congress of this determination and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

NOTE: This item was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 1.

Remarks to the Community in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

June 1, 1993

The President. Thank you very much. Senator Kohl, Congressman Barrett, Mayor Norquist, ladies and gentlemen, it's wonderful to be back in Wisconsin and back in Milwaukee again for the first time since I became President. I suppose I ought to begin by thanking the State of Wisconsin for your electoral votes. I'm very grateful for that. I'd also like to thank the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce and the Public Policy Forum for hosting this opportunity for me to visit with you, and through you, all the people of Wisconsin, about the economic issues facing our country.

I'd like to introduce some other people who are here, up there somewhere. I asked Senator Kohl where they were, and he said, "Up there somewhere." But it's dark. I can't see. I brought with me the former chancellor of the University of Wisconsin, now the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, Donna Shalala, who is here; the chairman of the Joint Economic Committee in the House, your Congressman, David Obey, is here with me somewhere there; and we were met at the airport by Congressman Gerry Kleczka, who is here, Gerry; and Congressman-elect Peter Barca, who is also here somewhere. Thank you.

You know, a lot of times when I get out in the country now, people who worked for me—or who didn't, who just feel like they can come up and talk—say, "Well, aren't you worried about getting isolated up there in Washington? I mean, what's the real difference in being President and just being out